

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our departed colleague the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Many have attested to STEPHANIE's contagious smile and fierce loyalty to her friends. I always respected and admired her. I can honestly say that she was a nice and professional colleague. We spoke for the last time a couple of weeks ago at the Congressional Black Caucus's Annual Retreat in Tunica, Mississippi. I feel a sense of gratitude for our meeting. We talked. We embraced. STEPHANIE expressed her congratulations for my success as a freshman legislator. She spoke fondly of her time in Memphis as she visited her family there.

Over the past decade, STEPHANIE was an undeniable force in Congress. She broke barriers in 1998 by being elected the first African American woman in Congress from Ohio. She persisted over the years and was appointed to the powerful Ways and Means Committee. She served with a sense of pride as the chairwoman of the House Ethics Committee.

STEPHANIE and I co-sponsored a great deal of legislation together. On July 29, 2008, we unified as Members of Congress and passed H. Res. 194: the formal apology for government's involvement in slavery and Jim Crow. STEPHANIE was one of my earliest co-sponsors. She was a community conscious legislator. She fought for the people and sponsored legislation on issue areas ranging from community economic development to enfranchisement and retirement security.

I am forever grateful that my last interaction with STEPHANIE concluded with a deep and meaningful hug. My only regret is that STEPHANIE and I will not have the opportunity to work together in the future.

HONORING NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we celebrate National Grandparents Day on the first Sunday after Labor Day every September. In honor of the 2008 National Grandparents Day, I wish to recognize the contribution of the millions of grandparent caregivers who raise their young relatives. In the United States, more than four and one half million grandparents are raising over six million children. These grandparents have embraced the role of full-time caregivers—juggling car seats, monitoring homework, and stretching fixed-incomes—to protect young children whose parents cannot provide them safe, permanent homes. This is not the vision of retirement that

most of us hold, but it is a reality for millions of Americans.

In Illinois, approximately 80,000 grandparents head households that include young children. Indeed, my Congressional District has the highest percentage of children living with kinship caregivers in the Nation, followed by the First District of Illinois with the second highest percentage and the Second District with the tenth highest percentage in the nation. I know the sacrifice and dedication of these grandparents. I know the lengths they go to identify the resources and obtain supports for these youth, foregoing their own needs to provide for their grandchildren.

I am pleased that Congress is advancing legislation to support these grandparent caregivers. In June, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6307, the Fostering Connections to Success Act. This bill includes important provisions that I have championed for 4 years that will support kinship caregivers. Specifically, the bill includes the three core elements of my bill, H.R. 2188, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act, which I introduced with Representative TIM JOHNSON: It allows states to use Federal funds to support family caregivers' raising relatives who were in the foster care system; it provides funding to establish kinship navigator programs; and it requires notification of relatives when a child enters the foster care system. The Senate Committee on Finance is advancing related legislation this week. It is important that Congress acts quickly to support grandparent-headed families. Research clearly shows that kinship foster care families are safer, more stable placements that are more likely to keep children connected with their siblings and communities than non-relative placements. Further, these placements are cost effective. In Illinois, cost studies found a projected savings of approximately \$48 million over 10 years. We know that millions of grandparents care for grandchildren who never entered the foster care system, and we need to include supports—such as kinship navigator programs—to help these families identify and access services as well.

National Grandparents Day reminds us to care for our seniors. It is a fact of nature that all of us will turn grayer. I hope that Congress will succeed in implementing key supports for kinship caregivers who have done so much to protect and care for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE HOSPICE PROTECTION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Hospice Protection Act to help preserve Medicare beneficiaries' access to hospice services. I am pleased to be introducing this legislation with my colleagues JIM RAMSTAD and MAURICE HINCHEY.

Established as a Medicare benefit in 1983 to ensure that all beneficiaries could access high quality end-of-life care, hospice is a comprehensive model of care that encompasses the physical, spiritual, emotional, and practical

needs of the patient. Considered to be the model for quality, compassionate care at the end of life, hospice care involves a team-oriented approach of expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's wishes. Hospices around the country provide invaluable services and care by enhancing the quality of life for the terminally ill.

The Medicare hospice benefit has significant cost savings. A Duke University study showed that patients receiving hospice care cost the Medicare program about \$2,300 less than those who did not.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued a final rule that would eliminate the budget neutrality factor in the Medicare hospice wage index. This will result in a \$2.18 billion reduction in Medicare hospice reimbursement over 5 years and threatens the ability of hospice providers to care for the terminally ill. This legislation seeks to prevent CMS from implementing this short-sighted rule until October 2009.

I initiated a letter in April 2008, signed by 49 House members, to Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt urging him to reconsider issuing this rule that phases out the current budget neutrality factor in the Medicare hospice wage index. That letter was ignored as the Administration has moved forward and issued this misguided regulation.

Madam Speaker, as our nation faces the continuing challenges of meeting the health care needs of an aging population, now is not the time to cut back on Medicare reimbursement for hospice services, which is cost effective and saves Medicare money. I invite my colleagues to join us to pass the Medicare Hospice Protection Act to ensure access to hospice services for the patients and families who need it.

HONORING SGT RYAN BAUMANN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of a Maryland native who died last month in our country's service: SGT Ryan Baumann of Great Mills. I know how small a difference any words of mine can make for those who loved and lost him; but still, he deserves all the honor we can give.

Ryan Baumann grew up in Great Mills, Maryland, where he excelled in sports and was an award-winning photographer. He met his fiancée, Lauren Smith, soon after graduating from high school; tragically, he was killed in action before they could marry.

Sergeant Baumann was a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, a highly decorated soldier. His awards included the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, two awards, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Ribbon. He was also posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Sergeant Baumann's death typified his outstanding service. Traveling on Route Alaska in

Khost Province, Afghanistan, Sergeant Baumann spotted an improvised explosive device from his Humvee. As his fiancé explained, "They were going downhill and he saw the land mine and he was telling them to stop, and you can't stop a Humvee going downhill, and he told them to veer to the left, which made him take the brunt of the explosion. He wouldn't have had it any other way." Sgt. Baumann died of his injuries; every other serviceman in the Humvee survived.

In the wake of his death, we honor his commitment to our country, his tremendous sacrifice, and his devotion to his comrades-in-arms. As they mourn their great loss, our thoughts are with his family: his father Robert; his mother Cindy; his stepfather Gary Lohman; his sister Christina; and his fiancé, Lauren Smith. I pledge to them all the support a grateful nation can give.

HONORING THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT SIDNEY CLOTFELTER

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Sidney Clotfelter, who is celebrating his 95th birthday this week. Sidney Clotfelter is a life-long Georgian who has spent the majority of his 95 years enriching lives of citizens in the heart of my district—Marietta, Georgia. Born in Fulton County, Georgia on September 14, 1913, Sidney was one of five children to Charles Thomas and Era Northcutt Clotfelter.

Growing up in Marietta during the Great Depression, Sidney sold vegetables from the back of a Model T Ford to help make ends meet for his family.

Sidney attended Marietta High School and graduated in 1932, where he was voted Best All-Around Senior. After high school, he attended a local business college, and then studied two years at Georgia Tech. During World War II, he served his country as an officer in the Army with the Corps of Engineers.

Sidney has been an active member of the First Presbyterian Church since 1928, where he has served as Deacon and has been on the Property Committee for twenty years.

He has owned and operated a number of businesses, including a contracting company for commercial and industrial construction. He built schools, churches and various commercial buildings around Marietta, and did construction work for Southern Bell and AT&T in every state in the Southeast. For several years he worked for Lockheed Martin in maintenance and construction.

In 1992, he was honored with the Marietta High School Distinguished Alumni Award. Sidney Clotfelter has been a member of the Marietta Rotary Club since 1946 and served as the Club's president from 1962 to 1963.

Sidney Clotfelter has contributed much to the communities of Marietta, Cobb County, and the entire state of Georgia during his 95 years. His donations of time, work and money to a wide variety of organizations and causes have been substantial, continual and selfless—often giving anonymously. He is a dedicated family man who is blessed to have all four of his children living near him on the

property where he was raised. Sidney has spent thirty-two wonderful years married to Barbara Porter Clotfelter and, along with his four children, has eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Robert Sidney Clotfelter a happy and healthy 95th birthday and thanking him for a lifetime of service to his community.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, MI as they celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 14, 2008. The school continues to be a beacon of academic excellence that nurtures future generations of leaders.

Marian High School is a Catholic, college preparatory high school for young women founded by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1959. The congregation continues to sponsor the school and is still an active part of the administration. The school's mission is to ensure, within a Christian environment, an excellent education built on a strong academic curriculum, which will enable young women to value human diversity and live responsible lives of leadership and action based on gospel values.

Marian's philosophy of melding Christian values with scholastic achievement has proven to be one of success. This is exemplified by the fact that Marian students have consistently performed above the state and national averages on the SAT and ACT. In addition, Marian offers 20 honor level courses and 12 advanced placement courses, which allow students to earn college credits. The faculty has also shown a commitment to improving the quality of the education students are receiving with over 60 percent of them holding an advanced degree.

Madam Speaker, Marian High School continues to be one of the finest educational institutions in Michigan. I wish to congratulate the administration, faculty, students, and alumni on their 50th Anniversary and hope for many years of prosperity.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRI-COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Tri-County Mental Health and Mental Retardation being designated as the MHMR center for Montgomery, Liberty and Walker counties in southeast Texas. I ask my colleagues and those visitors in the House Chamber to join me in congratulating Tri-County MHMR and applauding the work they've done over the past quarter century.

Twenty-six years ago, a small group of community leaders joined together to make the dream of local MHMR services a reality—the dream they shared became a reality on September 1, 1983. What initially was only an outpatient service center grew to have a budget of \$1.5 million and 46 employees by the end of the first year. Tri-County MHMR grew from these humble beginnings into a \$22 million system that serves nearly 7,000 people and has more than 350 employees.

It is only through the dedication of the founders, the continued work of the employees, and the support of the community that Tri-County MHMR has seen such tremendous success and been able to make such a positive impact on the community.

If you name the service chances are Tri-County MHMR offers it; from outpatient psychiatric services, nursing and counseling to supported employment, habilitation and vocational training for both adults and children. The impact they've had has been felt locally and with the help of Federal grants, they continue to offer new services and provide better care. Only last year, they received over \$1.3 million to build additional supported apartment housing in Montgomery County. Tri-County MHMR continues to grow and identify new areas where they can contribute and, with the help of the State of Texas, the Montgomery County Hospital District, and the Montgomery County United Way, Tri-County MHMR will open a much needed Crisis Stabilization Unit in 2009.

It is an honor to recognize such an impressive group of individuals and such a noble organization. I hope all Americans can learn from the example Tri-County MHMR continues to make and step forward to fill a need in their local community, help other people, and in a small way help make life better for someone else.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ICHII TASAKI

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of my constituent Dr. Ichiji Tasaki. Dr. Tasaki has worked at the National Institutes of Health for 54 years, since November 1953, and has made invaluable contributions to the scientific community.

Dr. Tasaki was born in Japan in 1910 and attended medical school at Keio University Medical School. Upon earning his medical degree, Dr. Tasaki began a career in research. After completing a Rockefeller Fellowship in Switzerland and England, Dr. Tasaki immigrated to the United States in 1951, where he began work at the Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, Missouri, helping to develop the field of audiology, which serves as a foundation for diagnosing and treating numerous hearing disorders.

Dr. Tasaki began his career at the National Institutes of Health as a Section Chief in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Blindness. He went on to become a Laboratory Chief and later a Senior Research Scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health, where he remained for twenty-two years. Most recently, Dr. Tasaki was associated with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.